

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, HU, US

SUBJ: OFFICIAL GOH EXPLANATION OF VOLGES

REF: BUDAPEST 2260

1. I CALLED ON POLGAR AND PETER OF KKI TODAY AND TOLD THEM I FELT THERE WOULD BE ADVERSE REACTION IN U.S. ACADEMIC AND GOVERNMENT CIRCLES TO DENIAL OF IREX REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF VOLGES GRANT, NOTING THAT THERE ALREADY WAS SUBSTANTIAL FEELING IN ACADEMIC CIRCLES AND SOME IN GOVT AS WELL THAT U.S. SCHOLARS IN POLITICAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES WERE COMING UNDER NEW RESTRICTIONS. SAID I FELT THEIR DECISION WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS EVIDENCE ADDITIONAL TO DEAK CASE OF "TIGHTENING UP" ON U.S. SCHOLARS IN HUNGARY AND COULD RETARD RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING CULTURAL RELATIONS. I HAD RECEIVED TWO DIFFERENT EXPLANATIONS OF REASONS FOR KKI DECISION AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THEIR VIEWS ACTUALLY WERE.

2. POLGAR SAID THAT ACTION COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO KKI-IREX DIFFERENCES, WAS NOT RETALIATION IN ANY SENSE, AND WAS DUE ENTIRELY TO PERSONAL ACTIVITIES (WHICH HE THEN REVIEWED) IN WHICH KKI FELT VOLGES HAD NOT BEEN HONEST WITH KKI. SAID THAT VOLGES WAS NOW MISREPRESENTING DECISION BY CLAIMING THAT IT DUE TO RECENT KKI-IREX DIFFICULTIES. HE HAD COMPOUNDED PROBLEM BY SEEKING OUT HUNGARIANS AND SAYING SAME THING.

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3. I SUGGESTED THAT SINCE POLGAR DESCRIBED PROBLEM AS PERSONAL IN NATURE, VOLGES SHOULD BE INVITED IN TO EXPLAIN HIS VIEW OF SITUATION, ON WHICH SOME ELEMENTS SEEMED TO BE SEEN DIFFERENTLY. IF THEY THEN SAW THAT FACTS WERE MORE ALONG LINES OF WHAT VOLGES SAID THEY WERE, PERHAPS DIFFERENT EVALUATION OF EXTENSION COULD BE MADE. SAID PETER HAS APPARENTLY NOT MADE MUCH OF PERSONAL ISSUES IN TALK WITH VOLGES. PETER SAID HE HAD NOT GONE INTO MATTER IN DETAIL IN TALK WITH VOLGES BECAUSE OF DELICACY OF PERSONAL PROBLEM, BUT ALSO SAID HE DISCUSSED KKI-IREX RELATIONS WITH VOLGES ONLY IN REPLY TO QUESTION BY HIM. POLGAR CLAIMED TO BE CONFIDENT THAT U.S. ACADEMIC COMMUNITY WAS MORE UNDERSTANDING TOWARD CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY THAN I HAD DESCRIBED AND IN ANY CASE SAID THAT BACKING DOWN ON THEIR RIGHT NOT TO RENEW IN THIS INSTANCE SIMPLY TO PREVENT ADVERSE BUT IMPROPER CONIBUSIONS DRAWN BY OTHERS WOULD CREATE BAD PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE. HE ADDED THAT VOLGES' MISREPRESENTING OF THEIR POSITION TO OTHER HUNGARIANS VIEWED VERY SERIOUSLY BY KKI. POLGAR CONCLUDED HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY OF TALING AGAIN TO VOLGES. I NOTED I HAD MADE MY POINT ABOUT POSSIBLE RESULTS OF THEIR DECISION.

4. POLGAR NOTED KKI HAD JUST EXTENDED STAY OF IREX SCHOLAR CARLSON AND HOPED THAT WOULD BE SEEN FAVORABLY BY THOSE WHO MIGHT SEE VOLGES ACTION OTHERWISE. I SAID EXTENSION OF TERM TO PHYSICAL SCIENTIST OR A LINGUIST (CARLSON) WAS NOT OF MUCH RELEVANCE, BEING OUTSIDE AREA OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN.

5. COMMENT: I WAS NOT IMPRESSED WITH POLGAR'S PRESENTATION TO ME, AND HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PRESENT STATE OF KKI-IREX RELATIONS WAS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION. IF THEIR RELATIONS HAD BEEN BETTER, KKI WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY NOT HAVE DENIED EXTENSION, AN ELEMENT IMPLICIT IN PETER'S PREVIOUS STATEMENT TO DACHI. AT SAME TIME KKI IS ON

FIRM GROUND IN CLAIMING RIGHT TO DENY EXTENSION AND OBVIOUSLY FEELS IT HAS SUFFICIENT FACTUAL JUSTIFICATION TO ACT AS IT IS DOING. THEY CLEARLY HAVE NO INTENTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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REVERSING DECISION, EVEN IN LIGHT OF WARNING THAT IT WILL BE INTERPRETED AS TIGHTENING UP AGAINST SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AMONG ENFLUENTIAL GROUPS IN U.S. I NEVERTHELESS STILL FEEL FURTHER ROUND OF RETALIATION BY IREX SHOULD NOT BE PURSUED AT THIS TIME BUT THAT MATTHEWS SHOULD COME IN SEPTEMBER PREPARED TO HAVE FULL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH KKI ABOUT RECENT PROBLEMS WITH VIEW TO STABILIZING RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT FURTHER SETBACKS.

PEDERSEN

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